

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously presented) A triethanolamine-based mixture having high thermal stability over time for avoiding or reducing coloration thereof comprising from 99.2 to 99.9% by weight of triethanolamine, from 2000 to 50 ppm of a secondary dialkanolamine and optionally from 500 to 10 ppm of monoethanolamine, said triethanolamine-based mixture having:

i) a sulphuric ash content of less than 300 ppm, measured according to the V.3.2.14 Standard of the European Pharmacopoeia (1994 Edition); and
ii) a colour index of from 0 to 120 Hazens, measured according to the ASTM D 1209 Standard, after the said triethanolamine-based mixture has undergone a hot-ageing test at 140°C in an inert atmosphere for a period of 4 hours.

21. (Previously presented) The triethanolamine-based mixture of claim 20 comprising from 99.5 to 99.9% by weight of triethanolamine, from 1000 to 50 ppm of a secondary dialkanolamine and optionally from 200 to 10 ppm of monoethanolamine, said triethanolamine-based mixture having:

i) a sulphuric ash content of less than 100 ppm, measured according to the V.3.2.14 Standard of the European Pharmacopoeia (1994 Edition); and
ii) a colour index of from 0 to 80 Hazens, measured according to the ASTM D 1209 Standard, after the said triethanolamine-based mixture has undergone a hot-ageing test at 140°C in an inert atmosphere for a period of 4 hours.

22. (Previously presented) The triethanolamine-based mixture of
claim 20 comprising from 99.7 to 99.9% by weight of triethanolamine, from 500 to
50 ppm of a secondary dialkanolamine and optionally from 100 to 10 ppm of
monoethanolamine, said triethanolamine-based mixture having:
i) a sulphuric ash content of less than 10 ppm, measured according to the
V.3.2.14 Standard of the European Pharmacopoeia (1994 Edition); and
ii) a colour index of from 0 to 40 Hazens, measured according to the
ASTM D 1209 Standard, after the said triethanolamine-based mixture has undergone a
hot-ageing test at 140°C in an inert atmosphere for a period of 4 hours.

23. (Previously presented) The triethanolamine-based mixture of
claim 20, wherein the secondary dialkanolamine is selected from the group consisting of
diethanolamine, diisopropanolamine, di-n-propanolamine and di-n-butanolamine.
24. (Previously presented) The triethanolamine-based mixture of
claim 20, wherein the secondary dialkanolamine is diethanolamine.